AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. The claims are in the format as required by 35 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1.   (Currently amended) A method of supporting a kernel comprising:

~~generating a request in~~ implementing a kernel driver application and a bridge driver at a kernel layer [[;]] loaded into a main memory of a computer, wherein the kernel driver application is capable of initiating requests and the bridge driver is capable of communicating the ~~request to~~ requests with at least one user space application residing at a user space;

at the kernel layer,

receiving a request for processing from the kernel driver application;

forwarding the request for processing to a user space application;

at the user space,

receiving the request for processing;

processing the request in the user space to generate a response based on the request; and

communicating the response to the bridge driver at the kernel layer.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, ~~further comprising using~~ wherein the response ~~in~~ is utilized by the kernel driver application for further processing ~~in~~ at the kernel layer.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, ~~further comprising;~~

~~generating the request at a kernel application driver; and~~

wherein the bridge drive is further capable of opening a communications channel between the kernel layer and the user space ~~at a bridge driver~~.

4-5.   (Cancelled).

6.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[3]]1, further comprising queuing the request ~~at the bridge driver~~ for processing.

7.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[3]]1, further comprising ~~receiving~~ queuing the response from the user space ~~at the bridge driver in the kernel layer~~.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[3]]1, further comprising:

implementing a job manager and a supporting library at the user space, wherein the job manager is capable of receiving the request in the user space ~~at a job manger~~; and forwarding the request to the supporting library for processing, wherein the supporting library includes the user space application, and wherein the user space application is capable of processing the request in the user space ~~with a support library~~.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[8]]1, further comprising queuing the request and the response in the user space.

10-11. (Cancelled).

12.   (Currently amended) A system ~~for extending~~ with extended kernel functionality comprising ~~computer instructions stored on~~:
a processor; and
a computer readable storage medium accessible by the processor and carrying computer instructions executable by a ~~computer~~ the processor to:
generate a request in a kernel layer of the system;
forward the request to a bridge driver at the kernel layer;
establish a communications channel between the kernel layer and a user space;
send the request via the communications channel to a user space application residing at the user space of the system;
process the request in the user space to generate a response corresponding to the request; and
return the response to the kernel layer.

13.   (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein the computer instructions are further executable to ~~open a communications channel between~~ implement a request queue to

buffer requests received from the kernel driver application at the kernel layer and a response queue to buffer responses received from the user space application at the user space.

14.   (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein said computer instructions are further executable to queue said request and said response in the kernel layer.

15.   (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein said computer instructions are further executable to queue the request and the response in the user space.

16.   (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein said kernel layer comprises[[;]] a kernel driver application[[;]] capable of initiating the request and wherein [[a]] the bridge driver is capable of preprocessing the request.

17-18. (Cancelled).

19.   (Currently amended) The system of Claim [[18]]12, wherein said bridge driver further comprises a kernel request queue and a kernel response queue and wherein said bridge driver is further operable to queue the request and the response in the kernel layer.

20.   (Currently amended) The system of Claim [[17]]12, wherein the user space further comprises:
        a job manager operable to receive the request from the kernel layer; and
        a support library operable to process the request and generate the response.

21.   (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the user space further comprises a user space request queue and a user space response queue and wherein the job manager is further operable to queue the request and response in the user space.

22.   (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein said job manager is further operable to translate the request into a format usable by the support library.

23.   (Currently amended) The system of Claim [[12]]22, wherein the user space further comprises: a job manager is further operable to receive forward the translated request from the

kernel layer; and a to the support library operable to process the request and generate the response.

24. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 23, wherein the user space further comprises a user space request queue and a user space response queue and wherein the job manager is further operable to queue translate the request and response in the user space into a format usable by the kernel layer before sending the response back to the kernel layer.

25.-40. (Cancelled).

41. (Currently amended) A system of extending extended kernel functionality comprising: comprising:

a kernel driver application in implemented at a kernel layer operable to generate a request for processing to be forwarded to a user space application residing at a user space;

a bridge driver implemented at the kernel layer operable to:

receive the request for processing from the kernel driver application;

establish a communications channel between the kernel layer and [[a]] the user space; and

communicate the request for processing via the communications channel to the user space application;

a support library in implemented at the user space operable to

process the request for processing in the user space; and

generate a corresponding response; and

a job manager in implemented at the user space operable to:

receive the request for processing from the bridge driver at the kernel layer;

forward the request for processing to the support library; and

forward the corresponding response from generated by the support library to the bridge driver at the kernel layer.

42. (Original) The system of Claim 41, wherein the bridge driver is further operable to:

receive the response from the job manager; and

forward the response to the kernel driver application.

43.   (Original) The system of Claim 42, wherein the bridge driver is further operable to queue the request and the response at the kernel layer.

44.   (Original) The system of Claim 43, wherein the job manger is operable to queue the response and the request in the user space.

45.   (Original) The system of Claim 41, wherein the job manger is operable to translate the request into a format usable by the support library and the response into a format understandable to the bridge driver.

46-47. (Cancelled).

48.   (Original) The system of Claim 41, wherein the kernel driver application and the bridge driver are portions of the same kernel.

49-64. (Cancelled).